

Story #213 (Tape #6, Summer 1970)

Narrator: Hacı Gönen, 66, gentleman
farmer

Location: Yukarı Kise Köy
Güvem nahiye
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The Traveler and the Inhospitable Child

A peasant who was traveling was once hungry, and he decided to go to a village near the road to ask for bread to eat. He went to a village and found a house, with some steps to reach it, just like our house. He knocked on the door, and a child, like this one, opened the door.

"What is the matter?" the child asked.

"I am a traveler and hungry. Give me some bread."

The boy's mother was baking bread inside. "Son, who is it?" she asked.

"Mother, it is someone asking for bread.

"Come here, then." She gave the child a loaf of bread, saying, "Give him this." The boy took the loaf and gave it to the traveler.

There was a story in which it is said that warm bread asked for pekmez and pekmez asked for warm bread. So the man said, "Child, haven't you something to go with this bread?"

"No, we have not," he answered. But his mother heard this from inside

"What does he want?"

"Mother, he wants something to go with the bread."

"Why do you not give it to him?"

The boy went to the kitchen, dipped an earthenware bowl into a large pot of pekmez, and brought it to the man, who sat down on the stairway and started eating the bread with pekmez. It was a very good pekmez. Before he was half

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through with the bread, he had finished the pekmez. He asked, "My child, have you more pekmez where you got this from?" holding the empty bowl in his hand.

What do you think the child answered? "We have a lot more of it, as long as it is pekmez with dead rats in it."

The man regretted that he had eaten this pekmez. He dropped the bowl on the pavement and broke it.

To this, the child shouted, "You son of a bitch! You dropped and broke my grandmother's chamber pot!"

After this, the man left the place quickly, and as far as I know is still on the road.